

DM59xa Grand Mesa Scenic Byway (CO State Hwy 65)

Site Description and Notes

Geographic Coordinates - DM59xa88GE

	DD MM SS.S	DD.MM.MMMMM	DD.DDDDD
Latitude	39°02'02.7"N		39.034117
Longitude	108°00'52.3"W		-108.014413

Stats

- Ground Elevation 10,655' ASL
- Delta County, CO
- ARRL CO Section, Rocky Mountain Division

Comments by Keith ('Jay') Morehouse W9RM – October 2019

This is an excellent site for working from slightly south of a easterly heading, all the way around through south, to a point northwest. This site is blocked by higher terrain from approx 315 degrees around through north, to about 60-70 degrees. To the south and southwest, it is several thousand feet HAAT (height above average terrain), dropping off immediately beyond the roadside and continuing down-slope into the valley.

There is a wide and long pull-out on the south side of highway 65 which gets one well away from traffic, which can be considerable on a summer day in June or July. Several (or more) vehicles will easily fit in this pull-out. While a superb location from May through early November, I would NOT suggest trying to use it when there is snow pack at higher elevations. This point routinely sees several hundred inches of snow during the winter season, with 24 hour snow fall totals exceeding 30-40" common.

This site is proven to produce QSO's and is an excellent location for microwave operations to the south or southwest. One should have coverage well into NM, UT and the front range of CO from this location. This site has been used by rovers such as N0IO (up through 47 GHz), W7QQ and W0VOA. There is NO VHF/UHF fixed station activity from DM59 above 2M and very little on 6 & 2.